

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11, 12, 19 and 20 have been amended, and claims 29-30 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the amendments appears e.g. at page 5, lines 4-7; page 9, line 32 through page 10, line 9; page 13, lines 21-26; and page 13, line 34 through page 14, line 6 of the application.

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to address the non-substantive matters of form raised in the objection set forth at page 3 of the Office Action.

Before addressing the remaining issues raised in the Office Action in detail, a brief discussion of Applicants' invention may be helpful.

Applicants provide electrical igniter control systems that can enable rapid ignition times. By such rapid ignition, Applicants' electric igniter control systems can effectively replace a spark igniter.

Moreover, after a first voltage is applied to the igniter and the igniter heats to fuel combustion temperature, a second lower voltage is applied to the igniter, which among other things, can extend the igniter's operational life. Thus, for instance, the following is disclosed at page 13, line 34 *et seq.*:

The igniter control system 10 according to the present invention yields a control system that allows a hot surface igniter(s) 20 to be heated up more quickly and thus shorten the ignition time for the heating device or apparatus. This control system, after a predetermined time period has expired, also reduces and regulates the voltage being applied thereafter so the hot surface igniter maintains a fairly consistent operating temperature and so as to not unduly shorten the operational life of the hot surface igniter(s).

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Claims 1, 2, 4, 20, 25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Geary (U.S. Patent 4,935,606).

Claims 3, 5-9, 21-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Geary (U.S. Patent 4,935,606) in view of Donnelly (U.S. Patent 6,521,869).

For the sake of brevity, the two rejections are addressed in combination. Such a combined response is considered appropriate because *inter alia* each rejection relies on the Geary document as a sole or primary citation.

Each of the rejections is traversed.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the following is stated regarding the Geary document (bold emphasis added):

[In Geary] The first voltage is a full-on 120V line voltage for 34 seconds. Then, a **second higher voltage** is applied to the igniter.

Thus, by use of a second *higher* voltage, Geary is distinct from Applicants' claimed system, which provides a second voltage that is *lower* than the first voltage.

Indeed, the Geary document has distinct objects of addressing use of a voltage that is higher than the voltage rating of a particular igniter.

The Donnelly et al. does not remedy such deficiencies of Geary. For instance, Donnelly does not suggest implementing a second voltage lower than a first voltage as Applicants disclose and claim.

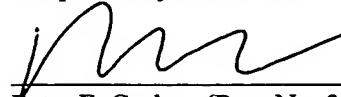
In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

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It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter F. Corless (Reg. No. 38,360)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
Tel: (617) 439-4444
Fax: (617) 439-4170

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